



MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

June 2013 – Our next regular meeting will be June 20, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Community Room. The program will be member non-numismatic hobby exhibits.

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The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road). Use the Northeast mall entrance (under the theater overhang). Meetings are open to visitors interested in coins, paper money, tokens, and medals.

President: Justin Perrault
Secretary: Joe Paonessa
Sgt. at Arms: Bob Burlingame
3 yr. Trustee: Stu Caddell
Librarian: Joe Paonessa

Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Treasurer: Lee Hartz
2 yr. Trustee: Tom Dallmann
1 yr. Trustee: Gary Bieringer
Newsletter: Pat Bethe

Mailing address: c/o P.O. Box 241174, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224
Web Site Address: www.milwaukeeenumismaticsociety.com

June Coin of the Month, by Leon Saryan

This month we will auction a beautiful golden proof US dollar coin commemorating Pres. James Madison. Starting bid for this desirable and attractive coin is only \$5.00.



June 2013 MNS President's Message

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day holiday to kick off the start to your summer season.

With the occurrence of our Club's semi-annual auction, last month's meeting went off without a hitch. There were a number of good lots to choose from, and in the end I think everyone went home satisfied in their purchases. Thanks to everyone who consigned items and everyone who participated as a bidder!

The next meeting will center around our show-and-tell portion of the evening, where members are encouraged to bring in an example of something else they collect or enlighten us with the facts of any other hobby they engage in besides numismatics. Then in July I hope that you will plan to attend the outing we will have in lieu of our regular meeting.

Senior historian at the Pabst Mansion, John Eastberg, has graciously agreed to give us a private tour of the Captain's former residence. This will be held on July 18th, the same night of our regular meeting, but we will meet a little earlier than usual at 6:00 PM. More will be discussed about this at the June meeting and additional details published in the next newsletter. However, if you know you will attend but cannot make it to the next meeting, please just send me an e-mail (masters1122@yahoo.com) or call (262.785.7663) so I can provide the Pabst with a more accurate attendance count. It will be open to all members (hopefully free of charge) and their guests for a nominal \$6.00 admission fee. John is a very knowledgeable fellow, and I am sure the tour will provide all of us with an interesting glimpse into a glorious period of Milwaukee's history.

All the best and here's looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com

Milwaukee Numismatic Society
Minutes
May 16, 2013

President Justin Perrault called the 937th meeting of the MNS to order at 7:04 pm on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at Mayfair Mall's lower level community room. There were 25 members in attendance. President Perrault led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Door Prizes were won by:

Don Kaminski	Steve Jacobson
Josh Whitehall	Jim Heinrich
Dave Hunsicker	Peter Caddell
Ed Fyrnys	Darrell Luedtke
Bill Spencer	Harold Kluender

Coin of the Month

Coin of the month was a Hawaii "So Called" dollar which sold to Ed Fyrnys for \$5.00

Minutes

The minutes for April were accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report

April's receipts were \$43 while disbursements totaled 758.99. This gave us a net Negative cash flow of \$715.99

Correspondence

We received the April issue of The Numismatist, the Centinel, a catalog from the NY mint and a letter from Pat Bethe.

ANA Correspondence Course

Course materials are now in the club library Contact Joe Paonessa if you are interested. This is a great way to increase your numismatic knowledge, and get pretty certificates to hang on your wall to impress your friends.

Newsletter: Pat is requesting new articles from our members.

Membership: Four new members were approved, Jacob "Ben" Ekdahl, Pam Talmadge, Leon Adraktas, and Nick Habersetzer. Welcome all, and we look forward to your active participation in the club's work.

Vice President: We are always looking for people to supply refreshments and programs. Also, next month's meeting subject is non-numismatic hobbies, so bring your stuff.

President: We are looking into a summer trip to the Pabst mansion and possibly a bus to the ANA show in August.

New Business

Coin shows in the near future: June 8 - Rice Lake coin show. Memphis paper money show June 13-16, ANA summer seminar June 23 to July 7

Old Business

None

The evening's event was the club member's auction.

A motion to adjourn was made and meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Joe Paonessa.

MN\$ 2013

Schedule

Monthly meetings in 2013 are held at 7 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 17:	Holiday party, election, new officers induction
Feb 21:	Darrell L., Wisconsin Breweries
Mar 21:	Merit Badge Program
Apr 18:	Milwaukee: Convention City (Dave H)
May 16:	Spring Auction (Dave H)
Jun 20:	Non-numismatic hobbies
Jul 18:	Summer Outing – Pabst Mansion Private Tour
Aug 15:	open
Sep 19:	open
Oct 17:	Raffle drawing
Nov 21:	Auction (Dave H)
Dec 19:	Holiday Party

Other important dates -

October 6	MNS Coin Show at Serb Hall
October 19	MNS Annual Banquet at Alioto's

Annual Dues

Dues for 2013 are \$10. They may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

2013 Numismatic Events

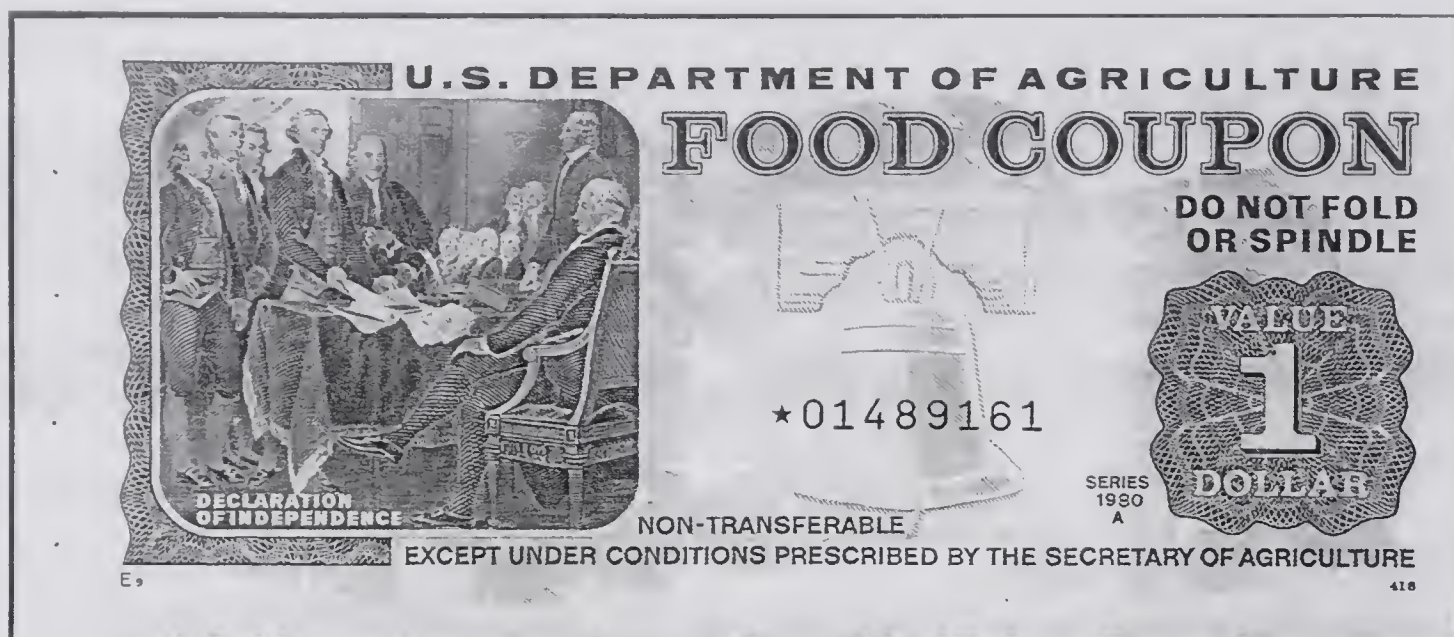
June 8	Barron County Coin Show at Cedar Mall 2900 S. Main St - Rice Lake
June 13-16	Memphis Int'l Paper Money Show
June 22-July 5	ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs
August 13-17	ANA World's Fair of Money at Stephens Convention Center Rosemont, IL

Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	Holiday Party Pizza Gang
Feb:	Tom D & Gary B
Mar:	Steve Jacobson
Apr:	Dave H.
May:	Stu Caddell
Jun:	Jim Heinrich
Jul:	N/A – Pabst Mansion Tour
Aug:	Justin J. Perrault
Sep:	open
Oct:	open
Nov:	open
Dec:	Holiday Pizza Gang

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$50. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.785.7663 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.



Brief Overview of USDA Food Stamps and Coupons

One of the byways of paper money collecting is the area of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) food stamps and coupons. The program has been in the news recently, as the number of people receiving this benefit has climbed to an all time high of over 47.7 million, or about one in every six, Americans.

The concept of free food from the government can be traced back to ancient Rome (*Lex frumentaria*), when the ruler would pass out subsidized corn to the citizens. The USDA food stamp program dates back to the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the late 1930's. After several years in abeyance the program was revived in the 1960s.

Over the years a variety of types of attractively designed paper stamps and paper coupons, printed at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, were provided as a benefit to enrollees. In the beginning, paper stamps with perforations were used (hence the name). Coupons (printed in intaglio with various colors and denominations on one side only) slightly smaller than standard US currency have been used since the 1960's. Coupons were intended as single use items and could not be reused. In 2008, the food stamp program was renamed SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), and coupons became obsolete. Benefits are now provided by a plastic EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card.

It was strictly forbidden for recipients to use the coupons for any other purpose other than to purchase food. Despite provisions to prevent fraud and abuse, recipients routinely sold the coupons for cash to purchase alcohol, cigarettes, and illicit drugs. It was even illegal for individuals (collectors) to own coupons that had not been received as a benefit. Consequently, we have no idea how many have been preserved and in what condition.

USDA has relaxed the prohibition on private ownership, but despite this it is extremely difficult for collectors to obtain examples for their collections. A popular online site, for example, routinely cancels any listings offering genuine food stamps for sale or auction. Collectors have protested this policy to no avail. So what are they worth? I was able to find a dealer online that is offering a single professionally graded MS-66 \$1 coupon for \$90. – L. A. Saryan



Scientists have unearthed a 600-year-old Chinese coin on the Kenyan island of Manda that shows trade existed between China and east Africa decades before European explorers set sail and changed the map of the world. The coin is about 1 inch in diameter. (Credit: John Weinstein/The Field Museum)

Ancient Chinese Coin Found in East Africa by Field Museum Expedition

A joint expedition of scientists led by Chapurukha M. Kusimba of The Field Museum in Chicago and Sloan R. Williams of the University of Illinois at Chicago has unearthed a 600-year-old Chinese coin on the Kenyan island of Manda that shows trade existed between China and east Africa decades before European explorers set sail and changed the map of the world. Kenya is located on the east coast of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The coin, a small disk of copper and silver with a square hole in the center so it could be worn on a belt, is called “Yongle Tongbao” and was issued by Emperor Yongle who reigned from 1403-1425AD during the Ming Dynasty. The emperor’s name is written on the coin, making it easy to date. Emperor Yongle, who started construction of China’s Forbidden City, was interested in political and trade missions to the lands that ring the Indian Ocean and sent Admiral Zheng He, also known as Cheng Ho, to explore those shores.

“Zheng He was, in many ways, the Christopher Columbus of China,” said Dr. Kusimba. “It’s wonderful to have a coin that may ultimately prove he came to Kenya. This finding is significant. We know Africa has always been connected to the rest of the world, but this coin opens a discussion about the relationship between China and Indian Ocean nations.”

That relationship stopped soon after Emperor Yongle's death when later Chinese rulers banned foreign expeditions, allowing European explorers to dominate the Age of Discovery and expand their countries' empires.

The island of Manda, off the northern coast of Kenya, was home to an advanced civilization from about 200AD to 1430AD, when it was abandoned and never inhabited again. Trade played an important role in the development of Manda, and this coin may show the importance of trade on the island dating back to much earlier than previously thought.

"We hope this and future expeditions to Manda will play a crucial role in showing how market-based exchange and urban-centered political economies arise and how they can be studied through biological, linguistic, and historical methodologies," Dr. Kusimba said.

Other researchers who participated in the expedition to Manda include Dr. Janet Monge from the University of Pennsylvania, Mohammed Mchulla, staff scientist at Fort Jesus National Museums of Kenya and Dr. Amelia Hubbard from Wright State University. Also involved was Professor Tiequan Zhu of Sun Yat-Sen University, who identified the coin. The researchers also found human remains and other artifacts that predate the coin.
– Field Museum of Chicago